

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 206693
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:JDAVIDOW:DH
APPROVED BY SECRETARY
AF:WEDMONDSON
AF:WHARROP
P:PHABIB
S/S-O:SESTEINER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 206693

EXDIS, FOR MOOSE

E.O. 11652: X-GDS-1

TAGS: RH, UK, PDEV

SUBJECT: OPENING OF UK LIAISON OFFICE IN SALISBURY

REF: A) LONDON 13942; B) STATE 199731; C) PRETORIA 4452

1. OWEN'S INSISTENCE ON OPENING A LIAISON OFFICE, BY
WHATEVER NAME, IN SALISBURY SEEMS TO IGNORE THE REALITY
OF SIGNIFICANT FRONT LINE AND PATRIOTIC FRONT SUSPICION
OF BRITISH MOTIVES. WE AGREE WITH YOU THAT SUCH AN
OFFICE WOULD INCREASE SUSPICION THAT THE BRITISH MIGHT
BE SECRETLY ENCOURAGING AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT OR
OTHERWISE NEGOTIATING A PRIVATE DEAL WITH SMITH.

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USING MIRANDA HOUSE, THE FORMER OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF
UK REPRESENTATIVE IN SALISBURY WILL ONLY COMPOUND THIS
IMPRESSION. WE REMAIN CONVINCED THAT THE BRITISH
SHOULD NOT REESTABLISH AN OFFICIAL PRESENCE IN SALISBURY
UNTIL IT IS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT IT IS A PREFATORY
MOVE TO REASSERTING UK SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE COLONY.

2. IN LIGHT OF OUR OPPOSITION, YOU SHOULD TELL DAVID OWEN
THAT THE SECRETARY HAS REVIEWED THE SUBJECT AND BELIEVES
THAT OPENING AN OFFICE IN SALISBURY NOW WOULD BE ILL
ADVISED. HE WOULD PREFER TO CONSIDER THIS QUESTION FURTHER
WITH DR. OWEN AND WOULD APPRECIATE THE BRITISH TAKING NO

ACTION UNTIL HE AND DR. OWEN HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO
HAVE A FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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